

assert, that he stammered to a great degree. But of this last defect they supposed he was cured.

He lived at the time when *Cræsus* governed *Lydia*. He had been twice fold as a slave, before he was purchased by *Xanthus* the *Samian*, who was his third master, and from which period of his bondage we shall begin our history.

Many of the things related of him are indeed mean and trifling, but they are suited to his circumstance of life, and discover his amazing sagacity and penetration.

The first of these that I think worthy your observation is, that his master being obliged to send several burdens by his slaves to *Ephe-sus*, permitted *Æsop*, on account of his bodily infirmity, to take his choice. He chose the panier of bread that was to support them on their journey, for which (as it was the heaviest of all the burdens) he was laughed at by his companions, who despised him for his folly, one of them indeed out of compassion, offered to help him to carry it, but *Æsop* thank'd him, and said they should all carry it by and by, which accordingly they did, for after two or three meals were made, they saw *Æsop*

fanter

fanter along with little basket; and from that time a different opinion of him.

Some time after this present made him of some slaves having stolen and theft upon poor *Æsop*. incensed, ordered him to but *Æsop* getting a large drank it before him, without any appearance fired his fellow-slaves same trial, which being discovered, the fgs call the punishment intended flitted on them.

*Æsop*'s master sold all except a *Musician*, an *Or* he carried with him to them in the public market an eminent philosopher number of his pupils to greatly taken with the them about their profession could do. The one said the other that he could do